

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
PO Box 892  
Cadillac, MI 49601

## *“The Tie that Binds”*

### **JUNE 2017**

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC  
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director

Patrick Delaney, Treasurer

Penny Phelps, Administrator

Marie Linn, Clerk

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Karen Smeltzer, Newsletter Editor

Carol Nilsson, Chair of Trustees

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare available.

The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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# Message from Ginny Donley



## Words

Hi everyone. When it was first brought up to me that I would be doing this sermony-thing, I wasn't sure what to talk about. Initially I decided to talk about my career choice (welding), and maybe the direction I'm trying to take my life, as a graduating senior. I thought about grazing the topic of sexism as it relates to a young woman going into a male dominated career. But then I found this old document I wrote maybe a year ago, and I decided that this was a pretty good (already written) sermony-thing. I wrote it a while ago, and I haven't had too much time to edit, so there are a few generalizations I'll apologize for in advance. So without further ado, I'm going to ask you a question I think everyone on this planet could benefit from considering.

Have you ever really thought about something before you said it aloud? I mean, *really* thought about it. Not just thinking about how to phrase a question so it doesn't come out sounding rude, or making sure that whatever you're saying makes sense and won't outright offend anyone present; but have you ever truly taken the weight of your words and measured it; thought about the consequences those words will have, not just on the people you're speaking to, but the people *they* speak to about what you said, and the people those people talk to? Because *all* words have weight. Whether they are words about someone's appearance, or simple words about the weather, they all matter. If one person remarks that the weather is to be cloudy today with a high chance of rain, what do we do but say in our next conversation with another person, "It's supposed to rain today", the words carried from one person to another until we are all aware of the rainy weather today? If we are with our very best friend, and so-and-so walks by, and our friend remarks that so-and-so's nose is too large, we can't help but notice this detail every time we see so-and-so, and perhaps we mention it to another friend, who tells someone else, until everyone knows so-and-so has a large, unattractive nose, including so-and-so. We don't seem to fully understand the power we have with our words.

Yet, as powerful as they are, words are fleeting. They often disappear into the Neverland of the past, until someone dredges them up again. Perhaps this is why we don't treat them as we should—powerful tools that can destroy the world as easily as they can save it—we treat words as if they are cheap inconsequential things, always having a mighty supply of them, and spewing out words without a backward thought. We treat words as if a single kind one isn't the difference between life and death for some, as if they don't have the weight some people take from them. We treat words as if they don't have the power to destroy that most precious commodity-life. We treat them as if one evil word, or worse, a torrent of such words, can't take someone's son or someone's daughter, from the world. We often overuse words, forgetting what they really mean and taking them for granted until it's too late. It's embarrassing to have your mom say "I love you" in public; until she's gone, and you realize that no one will ever say those words to you in that way again. You think it's just common courtesy to have people ask you how your day has been, and maybe find having the question asked over and over again irritating; until they stop asking, and you realize that it's because no one cares anymore. Our words have the power to build worlds, to save lives, to make the sun shine in the darkest of nights. Our words have the power to tear down planets, to rip apart families, to hurt.

Even when lives have been taken because of words someone said-careless, hateful words- even when the world goes down in flames around us, nothing changes. We are told to be kinder with our words, to be more thoughtful. But no one really listens. We are told to think before we speak, to watch our language. But no one really does. Some try, but are they trying hard enough? If we are truly intolerant of hurtful words, then why are hurtful words still being said? If we are truly a people who will not stand by and watch others get torn down, then why are we standing and watching? Is it because we don't care? Because we are brought up in a violent world to be numb to violence and others' pain and suffering? Because we don't recognize that what we are seeing or hearing is wrong? I have heard people say that they can watch violence happen, that it doesn't bother them to watch the other people suffer, for whatever reason. Some say it is because they play really violent

video games, and therefore are immune to real life pain and agony. Some say because they just don't care. They say this as though they are proud, as though it is something to be proud of, watching people burn and writhe in agony, while they laugh from the shadows. It is not. Tolerance of violence is an awful thing; I should not have to explain why. Tolerance of hateful words is just as awful. Has our world really become so bad that we cannot tell the difference between spiteful words and ones of "teasing" until it is too late? Or do we recognize it and simply turn our backs so those words are not directed at us?

So I say again, *all* words have weight. Words about the weather, about friends, about food, colours, cats, enemies, books, movies, current events. All of these words have weight and affect more than just yourself and the person you say them to. So, please, weigh them carefully, but also weigh your silences as well. Because sometimes not speaking up about another's thoughtless spew, can be just as damaging, just as hurtful, as saying the words yourself. Weigh your words and weigh your silences, and keep in mind that while cruel words can spread like a disease, kind ones can spread like wildfire, and the right word at the right time can burn away the fog of prejudice.



NOTE: Sam and Celesta's Confirmation Sunday messages will be featured in upcoming Newsletter issues.



# LIFE IN THE CHURCH



There will be a graduation openhouse for Ginny Donley and Celesta Lockwood on Saturday, June 3 from 2-5 p.m. in the Fellowship Diningroom. Everyone s invited to attend.

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Our graduating seniors that completed Confirmation class and joined our church this year received a monetary gift from the Graduation committee. They also received the book, “Oh the Places You Will Go” by Dr. Seuss. Special messages and good wishes were written inside each book from the congregation. Our graduates are: Ginny Donley, Celesta Lockwood. Ginny will be attending Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI pursuing a degree in Welding; Celesta plans to attend the Michigan Career and Technical Institute in Plainwell, MI.



Youth Sunday was May 21. Many of the Sunday School children participated in the morning’s worship service. Nursery and Sunday School children received certificates given by Karen Anderson, Pat McCurdy and Brittney Isaacs for their participation in this year’s Sunday School program. A special certificate was given to Hannah Gines for being Sunday School helper and photographer.

The children, led by Luke, sang “True Colors” while the congregation watched an accompanying music video.

Ginny played welcoming music that she composed.



The confirmation class graduated and gave the message during morning worship. This year’s confirmands and new members were: Grace Ann Cederberg, Lucy Mary Daveridge, Virginia Madeline Donley, Celesta Marie Lockwood , Samuel James Jacobson Pentces.



Sam, Ginny and Celesta were our featured youth speakers for the worship service. Sam also gave the benediction, followed by an upbeat music video – quite the sendoff.

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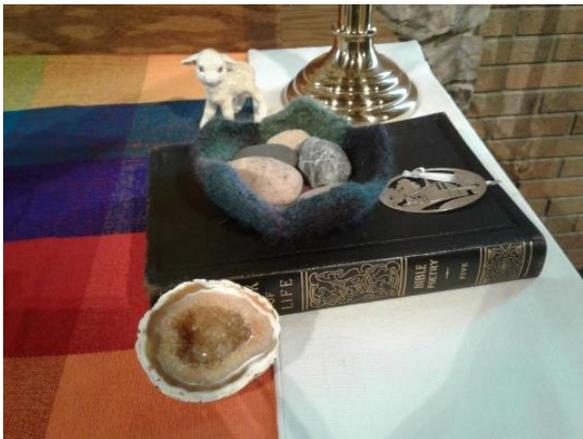
Rita Meech will be holding a Memorial Service for Terry Oss at our church on Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this service.

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Several of our church members were able to attend Dani Veenstra's installation at St. Paul's UCC church in Watervliet on April 30. Following is a note from Dani –



*When I left your church many of you gifted me with items that have become talismans, sacred touchstones for me. They graced the altar for my installation and I wanted you to see how beautiful it looked. Thank you for all you have, and continue to give to me through your love and thoughts. Blessings dear people. Pastor Dani*



# CHURCH EVENTS IN JUNE

June's Church Mission is the *New Hope Shelter*. There are envelopes in the church pews for your donation or you may use a regular envelope and write "New Hope Shelter" on the front.

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## CHURCH GARDEN

Once again this year there will be vegetable and herb gardens planted in front of the church in the raised beds. The two taller planters will hold herbs; the two lower planters will hold vegetables. There will be one planter open for you to plant your own herbs and one planter open to plant your own vegetables. This offers the opportunity to plant and care for your own herbs or vegetables if you don't have your own garden area available. The planters will be ready for planting after Memorial Day.

Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church if you'd like to help water the planters.

## THANK YOU's

**From Kathy Bloomfield, Board Secretary, *After 26 Project*** – On behalf of the Board, staff and Project workers of *After 26*, I would like to say: How wonderful to find your letter and generous donation to *After 26*! We are so grateful for your support and for choosing *After 26* as your February mission. This time of year is a struggle for the Depot due to much reduced business. Your donation could not have come at a better time!

**From Amie at Oasis** – Thank you so much for your generous donation to Oasis. We greatly appreciate your support and will continue our mission to safeguard the families in our area.

**From the Search Committee at Benzonia Congregational Church** – Thank you so much for hosting our neutral pulpit. We really appreciated your extravagant hospitality in hosting us for the second time. We really appreciated the opportunity to use the upstairs room after the service to conclude our business – thank you. We are happy and excited to tell you we have extended an offer. We are looking forward to her preaching here & the vote . . . . . Hopefully we will be extending an invitation to an installation soon!

### Other thank you's -

- Thank you to all who have hosted the monthly family movies at the church this year: Dave & Sandy Gaunt, Ruth Rounds, Ann Lockwood & Ginny Donley, and the Movie Club committee – Sue Cinco, Marie Linn & Pat McCurdy.
- Thank you to the YAHZ (young at heartz) ladies for hosting the Mother's Day coffee after church on May 14.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS –

- Due to vacations, we will be publishing the July/August newsletter on June 12, which is early. Please send in your articles or information for summer events and activities **no later than June 9<sup>th</sup>**.
- **June 24<sup>th</sup>** is the Pride Parade in Traverse City. The parade begins at 1:00 and meets at Little Fleet at 448 E Front St.
- **June 25<sup>th</sup>** is the Pride Sunday service. Wear a rainbow of colors and celebrate LGBTQ Pride.
- **July 30<sup>th</sup>** is the Semi – Annual Congregational Meeting. Worship Service will be in Fellowship Hall and **POTLUCK!!**

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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Minutes, May 2017 –

The Church received \$50 from Vitality Day for having the most members in attendance. Awesome participation. Thank you to those who attended for representing us so well.

Terry Oss Memorial service will be held July 3 at 4:00 pm at the church. This will be a musical event. Penny will host.

Sonrise Breakfast. Up to \$150 reimbursement will be provided to the hosts of the breakfast. Receipts ARE required. Please think about hosting this event.

Plans are being drawn up to replace the access ramp in the front of the church.

Please think about fundraising ideas and turn them into Marie by putting them in the church INPUT BOX on the Narthex table. Thank you.

Still looking for completed blue membership cards. Many have not been turned in. They are needed for accurate records. Thank you.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive church communications via:

\_\_\_ email      email address: \_\_\_\_\_

phone      phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ text      cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ snail mail      address: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive EMERGENCY church messages via:

\_\_\_ email    \_\_\_ phone    \_\_\_ text    \_\_\_ facebook messenger

# PANCAKE BRUNCH

**June 10, 2017**

**10AM-12PM**

**First Congregational Church**

**(east of Post Office)**

**TO RAISE MONEY FOR CADILLAC'S  
FREE HEALTH CARE CLINIC**



## Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
June 4	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Catherine Doud	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Richard Harvey	John Doud
June 11	Tom & Diane Jobson	Laura Porter	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sue Wachowski	John Doud
June 18	Mike & Joyce Oatley	Tom Jobson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Tom Jobson	Robin Corbin
June 25	Marie Linn & Karen Smeltzer	Sue Wachowski	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sara Keinath	ONA Committee

## JUNE 2017 CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Graduation Party 2-5 for Ginny & Celesta
<u>4</u> 9:30 am Choir Worship 10:30 am COMMUNION (pews)	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 7pm Choir	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> <i>Newsletter items due</i>	<u>10</u> 10am-12pm Pancake Brunch
<u>11</u> 9:30 am Choir Worship 10:30am (last choir till Sept)	<u>12</u> <i>Church newsletter early publication</i>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>19</u> Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> Worship 10:30 am <b>PRIDE SUNDAY</b>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	

Please be sure to have all articles for the July/August Newsletter to Karen Smeltzer ([kmsmel@yahoo.com](mailto:kmsmel@yahoo.com))  
No Later Than June 9<sup>th</sup> Thank You ☺

**Church Office: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30am-1pm**

**Non-church activities that take place in the church building:**

Jazzercise: 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:45pm: Mon, Wed, Thu; 4:30: Wed. Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month

**2017 Missions** - Jan.: Our Church's Wider Mission, Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing, April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church, **June: New Hope Shelter**, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund